



CASS GILBERT SOCIETY

Organized to preserve the work of Minnesota's most important architect.

WILLIAM TOWNER MORGAN AND MARJORIE PEARSON TO SPEAK ON MAY 9, 2006

William Towner Morgan, professor emeritus, St. Cloud State University, and Marjorie Pearson, president of the Cass Gilbert Society, will each make a presentation at the next Cass Gilbert Society event, to be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2006, at the University Club, 420 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, at 7:00 P.M.

Since he completed his pioneering dissertation, "The Politics of Business in the Career of an American Architect: Cass Gilbert—1878-1905," in 1972, Dr. Morgan has continued to explore Cass Gilbert's architecture, including his work in Central Minnesota. For forty years, an important downtown landmark in St. Cloud was hidden beneath an unsightly metal screen. The rediscovery and the ongoing renovation of the Kerr Block, designed by Gilbert and Taylor in 1887, is the subject of Bill Morgan's presentation. Bill retired in 2000 from teaching American Studies, but has continued to teach Minnesota history as an adjunct

professor. He also writes a monthly column on landmarks, architecture, and history for the *St. Cloud Times*.

Dr. Pearson will present a talk titled "Cass Gilbert: Architectural Ambassador." As one of St. Paul's first professionally trained architects, Cass Gilbert brought cosmopolitan styles and ideas from the East Coast. When Gilbert relocated to New York at the beginning of the twentieth century, he brought a Midwestern practicality, work ethic, and the professional expertise and management experience he had gained. This two-way dialogue provides a fascinating perspective on Gilbert's career.

Admission is free to Society members. There is a nominal charge for nonmembers. Refreshments will be served after the lecture. Support for Cass Gilbert Society lectures is provided in part by the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

Save The Date:

**November 10-12 Cass
Gilbert Society tour to
Austin, Texas (see inside)**



Kerr Block in 2003
Photograph by Bill Morgan

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Marjorie Pearson

We continue to be pleased by the favorable response to *Cass Gilbert: Standing the Test of Time*. Videotapes and DVDs of the educational version have been distributed to all school districts in Minnesota. Copies of the Teachers Guide are available for downloading through the Cass Gilbert Society website, www.cassgilbertsociety.org. Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) has continued to broadcast the 30-minute version of the program, since the initial showing in January. Eva and John Cross and the John R. Cross Fund are to be commended for their major support for this effort.

I am pleased to announce that Herb Grika, who has been recording our lecture series since 1999, is making copies of lectures

available on DVD at a cost of \$15 each. Herb began the project using videotape to provide a permanent archive of the Society's activities. He switched to digital recording as the technology advanced. The lectures given by Patty Dean on February 28, 2006, and Leigh Roethke on September 20, 2005, are currently available. DVDs of other lectures will be produced by request. For further information contact Herb by email at herb@grika.com.

The Cass Gilbert Society continues to need your support. If you have not yet renewed your membership, see the back of the newsletter for information. The mailing label indicates your membership status.

CASS GILBERT IN TEXAS

The Cass Gilbert Society is planning a tour to Austin and San Antonio, Texas, between November 10 and 12, 2006. The Austin portion of the tour will be led by Lawrence W. Speck, dean of the school of architecture at the University of Texas, Austin. Speck is the author of "The University of Texas: Vision and Ambition," in *Cass Gilbert: Life and Work* (W. W. Norton, 2001). The tour is planned to begin on Friday evening with dinner at a place to be determined. The group will take a bus tour to San Antonio on Saturday. Sunday will be devoted to touring the University of Texas-Austin campus and the buildings designed by Cass Gilbert. University of Texas Chancellor Mark Yudof has been invited to join the tour that day. More detailed information will be provided during the summer.



Library (Battle Hill) at the University of Texas, 1911
Photograph from Cass Gilbert, Life and Work, Architect of the Public Domain

CASS GILBERT'S PALACE OF FINE ARTS

The Saint Louis Art Museum is providing a major resource on one of Cass Gilbert's major works in that city through the following link on its website: www.stlouis.art.museum/modig/default.aspx.

Cass Gilbert's Palace of Fine Arts: A Visual History of the Saint Louis Art Museum Building is a digital resource providing online access to archival images and information documenting the museum's historic home in Forest Park. The building was designed by Cass Gilbert for the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition, also known as the World's Fair. Originally part of the Palace of Fine Arts, the Museum was the only building from the Fair to be a permanent structure, the "one material monument of the Exposition." It stands as a reminder of that defining event in the history of the city of Saint Louis and the State of Missouri.

The goal of the project was to create a central repository for archival images of the museum's physical structure and to provide free online access of this historic resource. The project brings together over 700 images of the museum from various sources including archives, the Photography Manager files, the archival slide collection, and Building Operations at the museum. A building chronology from 1901 to 2004 was compiled to assist with the selection and identification process. In addition to visual materials, some correspondence from the architect was selected as supplementary material relating to the building's design and construction.

The building has been modified with the addition of an office wing and auditorium in the 1950s; renovation of the East Wing and Sculpture Hall in 1977; a new office wing over the auditorium in 1979; and construction of an underground conservation wing and the renovation of the West Wing completed in 1987.

The project was supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (MLS), under the provisions of the Library and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library.



Saint Louis Art Museum
Photograph from the Saint Louis Art Museum

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Our Mission

To preserve our cultural heritage through advancing scholarship in and appreciation of Cass Gilbert's influence on American architecture.

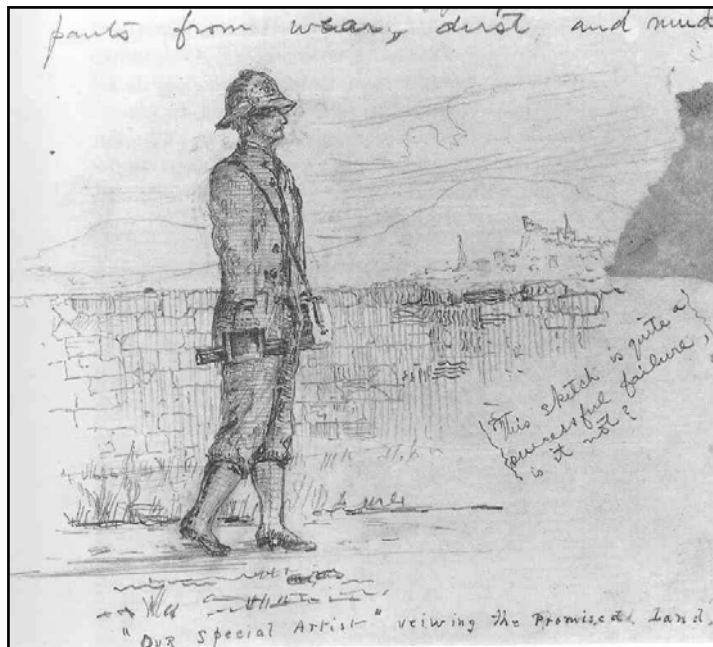
The Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., is a non-profit tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Have you renewed your membership for 2006? Would you like to renew your membership or join the Cass Gilbert Society?

See the Cass Gilbert Society website, www.cassgilbertsociety.org, for more information and a membership form, or send a check for \$25.00 for an individual/household membership to the Cass Gilbert Society, P.O. Box 4066, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104.



Cass Gilbert's sketch of himself in 1880 while traveling in Europe.
From Clarence H. Johnston Papers, Minnesota Historical Society